



Nourish Life

India

2022–2023 HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRY SITUATION

In 2022, India officially became the world's most populous country, with an estimated 1.42 billion people. As COVID-19 cases declined, essential nutrition services resumed through schools and integrated child development services, representing a positive pandemic response. The Government is celebrating 2023 as the International Year of Millets and will launch various initiatives to increase the popularity of millets and promote their nutritional value. Additionally, the introduction of the Aspirational Block Program by the Government of India reflects a commitment to holistic development, including nutrition, at the block level.

OVERVIEW OF WORK

Nutrition International supported the Government of India, as well as state governments and other partners, to support fortification, adolescent nutrition, child survival and maternal and newborn health and nutrition programs across the country.

In 2022, we continued to work on improving access to critical nutrients through national social safety net programs. We also initiated implementation of two implementation research projects on maternal nutrition and infant and young child nutrition. Nutritional International's efforts have expanded to bolster adolescent nutrition through the integration of additional components into our ongoing programs in Chhattisgarh, addressing non-nutritional anaemia, and in Uttar Pradesh, with a focus on menstrual hygiene management.

Our work in India is supported by 27 staff members and 75 program extenders.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Nutrition International supported the state governments of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh to improve the monitoring of vitamin A supplementation (VAS) sessions by facilitating the digitalization of their state-specific VAS monitoring checklists.
- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation supported project, Scaling up fortified and diversified foods through social safety net programs in India was successfully implemented across Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Telangana.
- Nutrition International is conducting implementation research in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh to develop a model for improving the awareness, consumption and adherence of iron and folic acid and calcium supplementation among pregnant and postpartum women. In 2022, the formative research, baseline survey and implementation model were refined and validated based on state and district input.
- In addition to providing technical assistance for improved weekly iron and folic acid supplementation (WIFAS) implementation, pilot projects integrating nutrition-specific and sensitive interventions were launched in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.
- An implementation research project was launched in four districts in Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat to demonstrate a model for improved nutrition services across the first 1,000 days. In 2022, formative baseline and state-level disseminations were completed, and interpersonal nutrition counselling and behaviour change strategies were developed and implemented with state approval.



IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS



191M
people reached with adequately iodized salt



74M
people reached with fortified rice in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Telangana



13M
children reached with two doses of vitamin A supplementation



11M
adolescent girls received weekly iron and folic acid supplementation



144K
newborns were initiated on breastfeeding within one hour after birth



26K
low birthweight newborns and their mothers were supported with kangaroo mother care

KEY EVENTS

- Nutrition International signed a memorandum of understanding with the state governments of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh to provide technical assistance to strengthen the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Program and improve household coverage of iodized salt.
- A workshop was convened to present the findings from a series of analyses on dietary diversity in Telangana, with the objective of proposing food basket diversification within social safety net programs.
- Nutrition International delivered a presentation on addressing anaemia through double-fortified salt at a policy event under C20's Integrated Holistic Health subgroup.
- Nutrition International supported over 500 Kishor Swasthya Manch sessions in 20 districts that reached nearly 194,000 adolescents in Uttar Pradesh with adolescent focused health and nutrition counselling and information.

NEW FUNDING

Nutrition International was awarded USD \$398,909 from Comic Relief US to improve the coverage and consumption of WIFAS among in-school girls and boys and out-of-school adolescent girls in Gujarat.

LOOKING AHEAD

Nutrition International is committed to delivering on our ongoing commitments and supporting practical, impactful results in India. Our key priorities include expanding our portfolio on adolescent nutrition, birth packages, as well as taking our implementation research to fruition. We intend to broaden our geographical reach to align with the Government of India's vision in an effort to scale up our food fortification initiatives. We remain committed to providing expert technical assistance to India's central and state governments for their nutrition programs. Additionally, we will actively seek collaborations and partnerships with aligned organizations and funding bodies to increase investments and foster synergies to integrate nutrition into other sectors, emphasizing gender across all program initiatives.